Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: No headings in the specification. Please insert appropriate headings.

Appropriate correction is required.

Interview

2. The examiner contacted the Applicant on September 4, 2009, to inquire about two sets of claims filed on the same date (July 27, 2006). Since there were no mark-ups, preliminary amendments, or status identifiers to determine the most current set of claims, the Applicant verified that the set of claims to be examined is the set without the PCT data heading at the top of each page.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 3, 19 and 21 are objected to because of the following informalities:

For claim 1, no punctuation after “steps”, line 15. For claim 3, insert “signal” after “excitation”, line 3. For claim 19, no punctuation after “has”, line 25; missing language between "according a" (lines 27 and 31). For claim 21, no punctuation after "has", line 38.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1, 4, 6-14, 16, 21, 24-26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. For claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 21, 24-26, 29, the phrase "and/or" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether some “or” or all “and” of the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

For claim 1, the phrase “this in” (line 19) is unclear as to what “this” is referring to. Does “this” refer to the actuator or the battery? The phase “in condition” (line 19) is unclear as to what “condition” is referring to. For example, does “condition” mean “based upon” or does "condition" mean a physical condition of a component?

For claim 6, the phrase “this in” (line 7) is unclear as to what “this” is referring to. Does “this” refer to the actuator or the supply?

For claims 7 and 8, the phrase “that it is” is unclear as to what “it" is referring to. Does "it" refer to the server?

For claim 11, the phrase “that it comprises” is unclear as to what “it" is referring to. Does "it" refer to the fuse, or a component of the fuse?

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-29 are allowed.

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the steps involved with establishing a norm defining a tolerance for an environmental fuse wherein significant structure is claimed for a sensor member such as "with a first connecting surface and a second connecting surface for feeding a flux through them, an active layer there between which is arranged to cause a change in the flux's passing through the active layer thereby cumulatively subjecting the active layer to a component present in the operating environment.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Hou et al. (US 7,016,166 B1) discloses a multiple layered sensor wherein a central region of the senor responds to changes in magnetic flux.

Strickland et al. (US 5,455,549) discloses a thermal actuator for an overload relay which opens a switch when the actuator exceeds a predetermined limit for a predetermined time period.

Mattheis et al. (US 2001/0020847 A1) discloses setting a magnetization for a magnetoresistive sensor element wherein at least one bias layer includes a flux conducting layer.

Ackerman (US 2005/0280497 A1) discloses a fuse comprising several layers which indicates a weak spot in the cross section of the fuse layers.

Lash et al. (US 2002/0158776 A1) discloses an alarm message which indicates the state of a fuse (blown fuse) wherein environmental parameters, such as water level, may contribute to the state of the fuse (parags 0080-0082; Fig. 6).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer Mehmood whose telephone number is (571) 272.2976. The examiner can normally be reached 8:00-4:30, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Toan Pham can be reached at (571) 272.2967. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273.8300 for regular and after final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272.2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jennifer Mehmood/
Primary Examiner
September 8, 2009